

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus connected to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected to the second network, comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

a sending and receiving unit configured to send the server computer a request signal received from the information terminal and to receive content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a print execution determining unit configured to determine, on the basis of a predetermined determination condition, whether the content data is to be printed; and

a print control unit configured to cause the printing unit to print the content data in a case where the print execution determining unit determines that the content data is to be printed.

2. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print control unit performs a control for printing only in a case where a validity of the printing is authenticated in a case where an authentication setting is made.

3. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the print control unit performs the control for printing only in a case where an input password coincides with a pre-stored password.

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4. A printing apparatus connected to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected
10 to the second network, comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

a sending and receiving unit configured to send a request signal received from the information terminal and
15 to receive content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a request signal interpreting unit configured to interpret contents of the request signal and to determine whether a print request is included in the request signal;

20 a print control unit configured to cause the printing unit to print the content data in a case where the request signal interpreting unit determines that the print request is included in the request signal; and

a data sending unit configured to send the content data
25 to the information terminal that sent the request signal

in a case where the request signal interpreting unit determines that the print request is not included in the request signal.

5 5. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the request signal interpreting unit determines that the print request is included in the request signal in a case where a print command that commands printing by the printing unit is included in the request signal.

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6. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data sending unit sends the content data in a form suitable for displaying on a display screen of the information terminal.

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7. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the print control unit performs a control for printing only in a case where a validity of the printing is authenticated in a case where an authentication setting is made.

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8. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the print control unit performs the control for printing only in a case where an input password coincides with a pre-stored password.

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9. A printing apparatus connected to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected
5 to the second network, comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

a sending and receiving unit configured to send the server computer a request signal received from the
10 information terminal and to receive content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a mode setting unit configured to set, for the information terminal, one of a print mode in which the content data is set to be printed by the printing unit and
15 a non-print mode in which the content data is set not to be printed by the printing unit; and

a data sending unit configured to send the content data to the information terminal that sent the request signal in a case where the non-print mode is set by the mode setting
20 unit.

10. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the mode setting unit comprises a mode table storage unit configured to store a mode table showing correspondence of
25 the print mode to information unique to each of the

information terminals, and

wherein the mode setting unit sets one of the print mode and the non-print mode based on the mode table and the information included in the request signal and indicates
5 the information terminal that sent the request signal.

11. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the information comprises an IP address of the information terminal.

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12. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the mode setting unit comprises:

a mode table storage unit configured to store a mode table showing correspondence of the print mode to
15 information unique to each of the information terminals, and

a mode table changing unit configured to modify the contents of the mode table from the information terminal.

20 13. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the data sending unit sends the content data in a form suitable for displaying on a display screen of the information terminal.

25 14. A printing system comprising:

a server computer connected to a first network and configured to receive a request signal and to send content data as a response to the request signal;

an information terminal connected to a second network
5 and configured to send the request signal; and

a printer apparatus connected to the first network and the second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with the server computer and the information terminal,

10 wherein the printer apparatus comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

a sending and receiving unit configured to send the server computer the request signal received from the
15 information terminal and to receive the content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a print execution determining unit configured to determine, on the basis of a predetermined determination
20 condition, whether the content data is to be printed; and

a print control unit configured to cause the printing unit to print the content data in a case where the print execution determining unit determines that the content data is to be printed.

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15. A printing system comprising:

a server computer connected to a first network and configured to receive a request signal and to send content data as a response to the request signal;

5 an information terminal connected to a second network and configured to send the request signal; and

a printer apparatus connected to the first network and the second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with the server computer and the
10 information terminal,

wherein the printer apparatus comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

a sending and receiving unit configured to send the
15 server computer the request signal received from the information terminal and to receive the content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a request signal interpreting unit configured to
20 interpret contents of the request signal and to determine whether a print request is included in the request signal;

a print control unit configured to cause the printing unit to print the content data in a case where the request signal interpreting unit determines that the print request
25 is included in the request signal; and

a data sending unit configured to send the content data to the information terminal that sent the request signal in a case where the request signal interpreting unit determines that the print request is not included in the
5 request signal.

16. A printing system comprising:

a server computer connected to a first network and configured to receive a request signal and to send content
10 data as a response to the request signal;

an information terminal connected to a second network and configured to send the request signal; and

a printer apparatus connected to the first network and the second network and capable of performing a bidirectional
15 data communication with the server computer and the information terminal,

wherein the printer apparatus comprising:

a printing unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on externally input data;

20 a sending and receiving unit configured to send the server computer a request signal received from the information terminal and to receive content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

a mode setting unit configured to set, for the
25 information terminal, one of a print mode in which the

content data is printed by the printing unit and a non-print mode in which the content data is not printed by the printing unit; and

5 a data sending unit configured to send the content data to the information terminal that sent the request signal in a case where the non-print mode is set by the mode setting unit.

17. A printing method for a printing apparatus connected
10 to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected to the second network, comprising:

15 sending a request signal received from the information terminal to the server computer;

receiving content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

determining, on the basis of a predetermined
20 determination condition, whether the content data is to be printed; and

printing the content data on a printing medium in a case where the content data is determined to be printed.

25 18. A printing method for a printing apparatus connected

to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected to the second network,
5 comprising:

 sending a request signal received from the information terminal to the server computer;

 receiving content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer;

10 determining whether a print request is included in the request signal by interpreting contents of the request signal;

 printing the content data on a printing medium in a case where the print request is included in the request
15 signal; and

 sending the content data to the information terminal that sent the request signal in a case where the print request is not included in the request signal.

20 19. A printing method for a printing apparatus connected to a first network and a second network and capable of performing a bidirectional data communication with a server computer connected to the first network and with an information terminal connected to the second network,
25 comprising:

setting, for the information terminal, one of a print mode in which content data is set to be printed and a non-print mode in which the content data is set not to be printed;

5 sending a request signal received from the information terminal to the server computer;

 receiving the content data sent, as a response to the request signal, from the server computer; and

 sending the content data to the information terminal
10 that sent the request signal in a case where the non-print mode is set.